

case in the genus *Phalaropus*, but his completely valid correction has been generally overlooked, probably because of the many dubious or invalid nomenclatural innovations proposed in this posthumous book. Linnaeus (1758, *Syst. Nat.* 1: 148) described *Tringa Fulicaria*; when this species was placed in the genus *Phalaropus*, virtually all authors changed the spelling of the specific name to *fulicarius*. In using a capital initial letter, Linnaeus showed his intent that *Fulicaria* should be considered a noun, and the ending should thus not be altered when this name is transferred to a masculine genus. Oberholser correctly gave the name of this bird as *Phalaropus fulicaria*. On the other hand, the specific name of *Tringa lobata* Linnaeus, having been spelled with a lower case initial, is an adjective, and is properly changed to *lobatus* when placed in the genus *Phalaropus*.

A word on the English names of phalaropes is in order. The American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, now engaged in preparing the sixth edition of its check-list for 1983 publication, has voted to conform to traditional British usage in calling *Phalaropus lobatus* "Red-necked" rather than "Northern" Phalarope. This is a step toward international standardization of English names of birds, and the British name was considered to be appropriately descriptive. The American committee, however, retains Red Phalarope for *P. fulicaria* rather than Grey Phalarope of British usage. In this instance the American name was considered to be the appropriate one, as it describes the unique breeding season dress of this species, whereas *all* phalaropes are grey in winter.

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## A long overlooked homonymy in the family Tinamidae

Hellmayr & Conover (1942) used the name *Nothura maculosa major* (Spix) for the subspecies of the Spotted Tinamou found in interior Brazil. This name is based on *Tinamus major* Spix (1825: 64, pl. 80), and was adopted in 2 recent reference works by Blake (1977, 1979). Unfortunately, *Tinamus major* Spix, 1825, is preoccupied by *Tetrao major* Gmelin, 1789, the basis for the accepted name *Tinamus major* of the Great Tinamou. This is not an instance of secondary homonymy. The generic name *Tinamus* was introduced by Hermann in 1789, and had been widely adopted long before 1825, the date of Spix's publication. There was thus already a *Tinamus major* (Gmelin) when Spix introduced his own *Tinamus major*, making Spix's name a junior homonym and unavailable.

There is, however, another Spix name available for the same subspecies of Spotted Tinamou. Hellmayr (1906) identified the holotype of *Tinamus medius* Spix (1825: 65, pl. 81) in the Munich Museum as an immature specimen of *Nothura maculosa*. Both holotypes, those of *Tinamus major* and *T. medius* Spix, came from "Tejuco" (=Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil), and are thus referable to the same population. The Spotted Tinamou of interior Brazil thus becomes *Nothura maculosa media* (Spix).

Emmet R. Blake of the Field Museum of Natural History was kind enough to verify the findings outlined above.

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## First record of the Chilean Woodstar *Eulidia yarrellii* in Peru

On 26 December 1977 Susan Allen-Stotz and I observed a sub-adult male and 2 female-plumaged Chilean Woodstars *Eulidia yarrellii* feeding at *Lantana* and *Hibiscus* flowers in the garden of the Hotel de Turistas, in Tacna, extreme southern Peru. Present for direct comparison were several male and female Peruvian Sheartails *Thaumastora cora* and a female Oasis Hummingbird *Rhodopis vesper*. The black tail of the male *Eulidia* was distinctive in colour and shape (see below); females were buff-coloured below (as opposed to the whiter *Thaumastora*), and had a cinnamon-buff band across the base of the tail. When not foraging, the woodstars perched inconspicuously within the cover of shrubs and short trees. On the following day, an adult male was observed intermittently for nearly 2 hours (12.00–14.00) as it visited *Lantana* flowers at the Tacna Airport, about 10 km south of the city. The bird was frequently driven away by the larger Oasis Hummingbirds, and also by 2 adult male Peruvian Sheartails also present. The flight of the woodstar was direct, slow, and bee-like; its wings produced a constant, distinctive buzzing sound not made by the 2 other hummingbird species in the area. The calls of *Eulidia*, slightly raspy *tsick* notes, were less musical than the louder chipping of the sheartails. Occasionally the woodstar would hover and fan its black tail, clearly showing lengthened outer rectrices that curved inward toward the very short central ones.

The Chilean Woodstar was previously known from only 4 areas in extreme northern Chile, from Arica (Tarapacá Province) south to Cobija (Antofagasta Province). Most records of this increasingly rare species (see King 1981) are from the vicinity of Arica, only 40 km south of Tacna; thus its occurrence in the latter area is not surprising. The species may be a regular wanderer to Tacna and possibly further north, and it should be looked for in the infrequently visited foothill valleys of southern Peru in the Departments of Moquegua and Tacna.

## References:

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